REMARKS:

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended by this paper and claim 3 has been cancelled by this paper. Support for the claim amendments may be found at p. 20, l. 19 to p. 21, l. 2 of the specification and in Fig. 2.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,937,143 to Watanabe et al. (the "Watanabe reference") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,019,227 to Fukui et al. (the "Fukui reference") and U.S. Patent No. 6,160,324 to Terada et al. (the "Terada reference"). Reconsideration of the final rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 of the present patent application has been amended to require, among other things, first and second monitor circuits, wherein the first monitor circuit connects a first relay in series with a parallel circuit parallel-connecting a first series circuit in which first and fifth contacts and a tenth normally closed contact of the second relay are connected in series, and a second series circuit in which third and seventh contacts and a second normally open contact of the first relay are connected in series, and wherein the second monitor circuit connects a second relay in series with a parallel circuit parallel-connecting a third series circuit in which second and sixth contacts and a ninth normally closed contact of the first relay are connected in series, and a fourth series circuit in which fourth and eighth contacts and a fourth normally open contact of the second relay are connected in series.

Claim 2 of the present patent application includes similar limitations.

Thus, pending claims 1 and 2 of the present patent application require a teaching pendant enabling device that is configured such that a mechanical apparatus being taught by the device can be completely stopped, even if one of the two monitor circuits is short-circuited.

The Watanabe reference discloses a teaching pendant for a robot, wherein the teaching pendant is configured to visually display the spatial position and motion of the robot. However, the Watanabe reference does not disclose or suggest a teaching pendant enabling device having first and second monitor circuits configured as claimed in the present patent application.

The Fukui reference discloses an enabler for a teaching pendant having a push-button switch capable of being manipulated from a first OFF state to an ON state, and then to a second OFF state. However, like the Watanabe reference, the Fukui reference does not disclose or suggest a teaching pendant enabling device having first and second monitor circuits configured

as claimed in the present patent application.

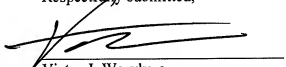
The Tereda reference discloses a deadman switch on a teaching operating panel that operates a robot. However, like the Watanabe and Fukui references, the Tereda reference does not disclose or suggest a teaching pendant enabling device having first and second monitor circuits configured as claimed in the present patent application.

Inasmuch as the combination of the Watanabe, Fukui and Tereda references fails to disclose a teaching device having first and second monitor circuits configured such that a mechanical apparatus being taught by the device can be completely stopped, even if one of the two monitor circuits is short-circuited, it is respectfully submitted that the proposed combination fails to disclose each and every limitation of the pending claims of the present patent application. As such, the proposed combination cannot properly establish a prima facie case of obviousness.

Furthermore, the unexpected advantages of the claimed teaching device, particularly the ability of the claimed teaching device to completely stop a mechanical apparatus even if one of the two monitor circuits is short-circuited, rebuts obviousness.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 2 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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